

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1751  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010  
HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SC/ST STUDENTS  
Shantha J.

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of SC/ST students are not pursuing higher education after passing class X in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create awareness amongst these students for pursuing higher education through print and audio-visual media; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) According to available information, against 95.08 lakhs students who passed out in High School Examination (X Class) held in year 2006, the enrolment in Class XI in that year was 75.26 lakhs which is 79.20% of those passed out in High School Examination held in 2006. Of these students who passed out in High School Examination, 14.25 lakhs students belonged to Scheduled Castes (SC) whereas 4.19 lakhs students belonged to Scheduled Tribes (ST). The corresponding figures for enrolment in Class XI in 2006 are 10.42 lakhs students for SC (73.2%) and 3.87 lakhs for ST (92.4%). While there is no authentic information on the actual reasons for inability of students belonging to SC/ST in different parts of the country in accessing higher education beyond Class X, lack of availability of sufficient number of affordable higher educational institutions is an impediment to access of such students to higher education.

(c) & (d) During the 11th Five Year Plan, Government has introduced a number of schemes promoting more freeships, scholarships, free text books, free hostels, subsidized facilities in institutions/hostels to the disadvantaged groups and increase in the quota for Ph.D. in technical institutions for reserved category candidates. Lack of awareness is not related to reluctance on the part of these students and no such specific awareness campaign has been formulated.